¶ By the Quene.

THe Queenes Maieſtie conſidering the euyll diſpoſition of ſundrye her Subiectes, to kepe the auncient orders for abſtinence from eatyng of fleſhe, aſwell in the tyme of Lent, as vpon other vſuall faſtyng dayes: And waying the great notable commodities growyng by the due obſeruation thereof within her Maieſties dominions, manye maner of wayes: Straightly chargeth al maner of people reſidyng in the ſame, from henceforth yerely to obſerue and kepe the auncient and laudable order for faſtyng, aſwel in the Lent tyme, as vpon all other fyſhe days. And lykewyſe commaundeth all maner officers both Eccleſiaſtical and Temporall, to whom the regard hereof doth or may belong, ſtraytghtly to ſee the ſame well & duelye obſerued. Wyllyng and commaundyng them in the name of Almyghty God, before whom they ſhal aunſwere for their perticuler charges, and as they wyll alſo aunſwere to her Maieſtie for theyr apparaunt contempt or negligence, that they do not eyther by theyr owne example, or by lacke of execution of their auctho:itie, permit ſuch licencious and carnall diſorder, in contempt of God & man, and only to the ſatisfaction of deuylyſhe and carnal appetite, to be ſuffred vnpunyſhed. And becauſe the maner of therecution hereof in the Citie and Suburbes of London and Weſtminſter ſhall geue good example to the reſt of the Realme: Her Maieſtie by this preſent Proclamation ſtraightly commaundeth and chargeth the Maior of her ſayde Citie, and the ſtewarde and principall officers of Weſtminſter, that no Bocher, Pulter, nor victueller ſhall at any tyme hereafter kyll or ſell, or cauſe to be kylled or ſolde within the ſayd Citie, or the ſuburbes, or within Weſtminſter, or the iuriſdiction therof, any fleſhe, betwene Shroftueſday, and the tueſday next after Palme ſundaye: nor that any Table keper, Inholder, victueller, or any other perſon that kepeth any houſe wherto any perſons do or ſhall reſort for meate and drynke for theyr money, nor any other perſon reſydyng within the ſame places, ſhall dreſſe, or ſuffer, or conſent to be dreſſed, or eate, or ſuffer to be eaten, any fleſhe within any of theyr houſes in Lent tyme, or vpon any fyſhe day, vpon payne that euery perſon and perſons that ſhall offende contrary to this order, ſhall forfeit and pay to her hyghneſſe for euery ſuch offence twenty poundes, thone halfe to be diſpoſed by theyr Churchwardens, to theyr poore people inhabityng the paryſhe where thoffence ſhalbe founde, and thother to her hyghneſſe vſe, as in lyke caſe is ordered. And beſides, yf the perſonne offendyng be a Citizen, he ſhall by the Maior and his brethren without delay be immediatly for euer diſfraunchiſed: and being a Table keper or victueller, vtterly diſabled in any place to vſe the ſame trade. And if he be no Citizen, then he ſhall ouer and beſydes the ſayde forfaiture, haue for euery ſuch offence ten dayes impriſonment without bayle: And yf the party offendyng be not able to pay the ſayde forfaiture immediatly vppon proofe made of thoffence committed, the ſame ſhal for euery ſuch offence, ſtande one market day in the market tyme openly vpon the pylory, during the ſpace of .vi. houres. And alſo that euery Alderman, for the tyme being, within his warde ſhall twyſe in the Lent tyme cauſe an enquiry & preſentment to be made, by the othes of .xii. honeſt and ſubſtanciall Citizens of euery warde, being no Bochers, Pulters, common victuallers, nor Table kepers, what perſons haue or do offende in eatyng, kyllyng, or ſellyng of fleſhe within that warde: wherof thone enquiry ſhalbe the Munday after mydlent Sunday, & the other in the weeke next before Eaſter, & that in the choyſe of the perſons which ſhall ſo enquire, good regard be had, that they be ſuch as be beſt diſpoſed to fynde out, and truely to preſent ſuch offences without reſpect of perſons. And alſo that the Maior with his brethren cauſe once euery fortnyght priuie ſearch to be made by honeſt and truſty perſons, of the houſes of all Bochers, Pulters, Table kepers, Tauernes, victuellers, and other ſuſpected houſes, for the better vnderſtandyng whether they or any of them do offend in the premiſſes: and that yf they ſhall fynde eyther by this ſearche, or by any lawful proofe brought before them, any perſon to haue offended: that then immediatly they cauſe thoffendours to be punyſhed, as aboue is expreſſed, without fauour, affection, or reſpect of perſon. The lyke order to be kept by the direction of the Stewarde or head officers in Weſtminſter, as the caſe ſhall require.

And it is further ordred and commaunded, that alwell the sayd Maior, as also euery of the sayd Aldermen, and the principall officers of the liberties of westminster, shall yearely certifie vnto her highnes court of Chauncery before the fyrst daye of Easter Terme, vppon payne of one C. pounde, what euery of them hath done in the execution of the premysses, vnder theyr handes and seales, to thintent that her highnesse therby may consider, what diligence or negligence shalbe vsed in the execution hereof, that therupon order may be taken with euery of them according to their desertes.

Prouided alwayes that thys order extende not to punyshe any person that by the lawes ecclesiasticall and temporall of this realme, for nedefull and iust considerations be permitted to sell, kyll, or eate flesshe. And for the better intelligence of persons licensed vpon reasonable & necessary cause, that none other may be collored therby: it is ordered and commaunded that euery person haupnge any licence, shall yearely the fyrst Sundaye of Lent, notifie the same to the Aldermen of the warde within any Citie, and to the curate of the paryshe, or to one of them at the least where he dwelleth and intendeth to take the benefite of the dispensation, or elles the dispensation to be voyde. Thys maner or the lyke order, her maiestie commaundeth to be obserued as nie as the same may be in all places throughout her realme, with lyke penaltie, and specially in all corporate townes, from whiche townes corporate being scituate within .cxl. myles of London: her maiesties pleasure is, that certificate in fourme aforesaid be made into her maiesties Chauncery, at the furthest before the second retorne of Easter Terme, vpon payne of one hundred poundes to be leuyed to her maiesties vse, vpon the sayd corporation so making default: and from all other corporations beynge further distant, certificate is to be made as is aforesaid before the last day of Easter Terme, vpon like penaltie. And for the better obseruation hereof, her maiestie requireth, and in gods name chargeth all Bysshops, Curates, and other ecclesiasticall persons hauinge the cure of soules, or the charge of preachinge, to exhort and perswade in their Sermons, the people to forbeare thys carnall licence and boldnes to breake common order, and to let them plainly vnderstande the great daungers of the wrath of almightie god, that hath and will alwayes lyght vppon suche rebellious and obstinate people, that more regarde their bellyes and appetites, then temporaunce and obedience.

And because her Maiestie woulde that thys Proclamation should haue continuaunce: her Maiestie chargeth al Maiors, Sheryffes, and other head officers, to whom apperteyneth the publication of this or lyke Proclamacions, that this be proclaymed forthwith in euery place vsuall, and yearely to be proclaymed hereafter, vpon suche market dayes as shal in any place next go before the first weke of Lent: and that in euery Lete at Easter, inquisition be made of the execution hereof.

God saue the Quene.

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Cum priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.

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